

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 11th of August 1934.

27th of Karkadagam 1109.

The House met at half-past eleven with M. R. Ry. P. Krishna Menon Avergal, in the Chair. Dr. A. G. Menon and Messrs. C. Barton Wright, K. G. Nayar, S. S. Koder, A. I. Mani, K. T. Mathew and C. A. Ouseph were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Supply of fresh water to steamers.

336. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether rates charged for fresh water to steamers at other Ports in India have been enquired into before fixing the rate of Rs. 1—4—0 per ton at Cochin;

(b) if so, are such rates the same as Rs. 1—4—0 per ton;

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, how is the rate of Rs. 1—4—0 per ton arrived at?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The rate of Rs. 1—4—0 per ton was arrived at after taking into account the depreciation and working charges.

Constitutional Reforms.

337. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform with reference to the answer to the Question No. 304 (e), dated 20th March 1934:—

(a) whether consideration of the Government is over; and if so,

(b) what is the decision arrived at;

(c) whether any effect has been given to the representation submitted by the non-official members of the Legislature?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a), (b) and (c). The Member is referred to the discussion in the Council when a cut motion on this subject was moved on last Friday.

Cochin Tea Cultivation Restriction Regulation.

338. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to Notification No. 224 published at page 108 of Part I of the Gazette, dated 23rd Mithunam 1109:—

(a) what was the urgency underlying the promulgation of Regulation XI of 1109 "The Cochin Tea Cultivation Restriction Regulation";

(b) whether the Government be pleased to place on the Council Table the history of the "tea restriction scheme" adopted by the Government of India mentioned in the preamble to the Regulation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) The legislation was introduced with a view to restrict further planting of tea for a definite period in the hope that by so doing the price of tea would rise and so the Tea Industry in the State would revive.

(b) Obviously, this Government are not in a position to answer the question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Were you not following the example of the Indian Government in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Of course, we co-operate with the Indian Government and enacted a Regulation more or less on the British lines.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then is it not necessary to look into the history of the restriction scheme?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Why should we look into the history of the Acts, to co-operate with them and to enact a Regulation ourselves on their lines? There is absolutely no need for it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—To determine whether there is necessity here also.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That we have enquired. Wherever there is tea cultivation, this Act will do immense good and therefore it is obvious that there should be such an Act in the State.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it not correct to say that you didn't enquire?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We did not enquire into the history. We enquired whether an Act on similar lines is required in our State.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that the same circumstances that forced Indian Government to bring a Regulation in this matter are existing in our State also?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. The number is quite correct.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the Government know what exactly induced the Imperial Government to introduce this legislation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The answer is there. The legislation was introduced to restrict further planting of tea. The very same reason, I suppose, will apply to the British Government as well.